



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY

July 14, 1999

Volume 105 • Issue 169 • 6 Pages

College Station, Texas



opinion

• Getting rid of the television may be the best remedy for students' procrastination.

PAGE 5

today's issue

News 6

Battalion Radio

Tune in to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. to hear how College Station plans to lower speed limits near Northgate next week.

sports

• Texas A&M signs Georgia assistant Steve Bultman as the women's swimming coach.

PAGE 3



Former Pulitzer nominee to discuss race relations

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Pulitzer Prize-nominated legal columnist for the *Wall Street Journal* Paul Barrett will speak in College Station today about his experiences covering legal affairs and race-relation issues.

Barrett will speak about his new book, *The Good Black: A True Story of Race in America*, which covers his former college roommate's experience as an African-American lawyer who files a racial discrimination lawsuit against his own firm.



BARRETT

"Many whites do not understand the difficulties their African-American colleagues have to go through," Barrett said.

Exa York, vice president of the International Association of Business Communicators, said her organization, which is hosting a session with Barrett along with the Brazos Valley Society of Professional Journalists at the College Station Hilton, is very pleased to be able to learn from such an experienced journalist.

"His coming here gives us an opportunity to gain insight into a working journalist's motivations and methodology for transforming a personal story and expanding it into a professional, full-length work that serves the public," she said.

Ed Walraven, coordinator of undergraduate advising and student services for A&M's journalism department, said he feels journalism students are privileged to be able to interact with a possible journalistic role-model who has both excelled in a specific classification of journalistic writing and who has authored a successful book.

Barrett's agenda today begins with an appearance on television station KBTX's "Brazos Valley This Morning." He will then speak to journalism students at A&M, followed by a speech to a joint meeting of the International Association of Business Communicators and the Society of Professional Journalists. He will end the day by signing copies of his new book at the Barnes and Noble bookstore on Texas Avenue.

Driven to give



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

Rachel McConnell, a junior chemistry major, gives blood in the American Red Cross van near Rudder Fountain Tuesday as part of the 1999 A&M Blood Drive. The drive, sponsored by Red Cross, Carter Blood Care and the Alpha Phi Omega service organization, will continue through Friday.

Board readies for Washington

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

Texas A&M students on The Chancellor's Student Advisory Board (CSAB) are compiling ideas and issues pertinent to all campuses in the A&M University System to present to the National Legislature in Washington, D.C., this spring.

CSAB consists of three representatives from each of the 10 Texas A&M University system schools. Representatives from A&M are Student Body President Will Hurd, and student senators Rob Ferguson and Ashli Thompson. Ferguson will serve as CSAB vice-chair for administration and Simpson has been appointed as his alternate.

The student body presidents from each of the system schools will also act as representatives, and a second representative will be appointed by the president of each campus. The third representative is chosen by the president of each campus and will serve as an alternate.

Members from CSAB will have an informal meeting on July 23 in Corpus Christi with the Board of Regents where they will meet General Howard Graves, the incoming chancellor.

Verna Dewees, system liaison director of CSAB and director of academic programs for the A&M System, said that as the new chancellor, Graves may have different

expectations for CSAB members.

"It will be interesting to see what special expectations [Graves] will have for the student leaders," Dewees said. "Dr. [Barry] Thompson has been very supportive toward students throughout the last five years as chancellor, and consequently, they've gotten more recognition."

She said that last year, CSAB presented

"It will be interesting to see what special expectations [incoming chancellor Gen. Howard Graves] will have for the student leaders."

— Verna Dewees
CSAB system liaison director

"white papers," the written position CSAB takes on issues they choose, to the state legislature.

She said the annual trips to Austin and Washington, D.C., are funded by the Chancellor's 21st Century Council of Advisors, who host one representative from

each campus.

She said students are able to meet with state representatives from their district or U.S. congressmen and senators from Texas.

Ferguson, a junior political science major, said two broad topics brought up at the CSAB meeting in May included financial aid and campus safety.

"It's part of an effort to try to combat juvenile crime across the country," Ferguson said.

Hurd said CSAB is a good forum to discuss and understand different issues going on at a college campus and also to formulate a plan to show the importance of higher education in the state of Texas.

"The direction I'd like to see CSAB move into is an outreach to the youth of Texas so they understand the importance of college and accomplish this by getting college students to go into the community and serve as representatives to youth," Hurd said.

CSAB began in the early 1980s under Arthur Hansen, who served as chancellor from 1982-1986.

Dewees said that in the last 10 years, CSAB has slowly evolved and become better structured and more constant.

"Because of support and funding sources made available by the chancellors over the years, CSAB has evolved into a much more mature of a group that is better organized," she said.

Passing the Bucks

Texas A&M planning expansion of Aggie Bucks payment service

BY SUZANNE BRABECK
The Battalion

Although Aggie Buck sales are up 25 percent from last year, they are being used less on campus because more Bryan-College Station vendors, ranging from food establishments to tanning salons, are accepting Aggie Bucks as a method of payment.

To help combat this problem, Texas A&M is planning to expand Aggie Bucks services starting this fall.

Aggie Bucks will be accepted at washing machines in the three freestanding laundry lounges on campus, on concessions at Kyle Field and at A.P. Beutel Health Center.

Steven Pace, Aggie Card Administrator, said they are also planning to implement Aggie Bucks on the washing machines in residence halls and possibly at the athletic ticket office.

Pace said that eventually, they hope Aggie Bucks will become A&M's currency.

Grocery stores and dry cleaners are also being considered as possible places to accept Aggie Bucks.

Pace said Aggie Bucks are beneficial because there is not a surcharge for the service.

However, because students cannot withdraw cash from their accounts, A&M joined with Norwest Bank and Aggeland Credit Union in 1996 in forming the Aggie Card. These establishments benefit from this union because they are the only ones allowed to advertise to students at registration and at other times during the year.

"There is no reason that other banks can get upset because everyone had the chance to get involved with the project," Pace said.

Ron Beard, director of food



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

services, said even though Aggie Bucks usage has gone down in their department, sales have not.

"Students have a lot of options and are using their Aggie Bucks more off-campus and using cash and other means at our

facilities," he said. "We have banners and pamphlets as advertising to increase Aggie Buck usage because they are more convenient for us, and we want to stay ahead of what is happening."

Bryan council receives visitor center proposal

BY MATT WEBER
The Battalion

The Bryan City Council heard a proposal for a visitors' center and museum at the Council's meeting last night.

If the proposal is approved by the council, the visitor center and museum would be built on the site of the Hoppess estate at 502 East 26th Street in Bryan. It would be built in the "Texas period style" and would offer information about Texas A&M University, The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum and other local attractions.

Dr. John Blackburn, director of community services for the city of Bryan, said the museum would offer a venue for the city to exhibit public art and other local projects.

Originally planned to be part of the Texas Golf Hall of Fame, the museum would instead house a transportation exhibit. A possible exhibition would be a rotating collection of locally owned antique cars. Blackburn said the project would also refurbish the estate's original carriage houses, which currently stand on the museum's pro-

posed site. He said funding from the site would come in part from the Hoppess family.

Bryan resident Jason Bienski said that although he supported the idea of a visitor center, he thinks it would be more effective and accessible to tourists if it were built in a more central area such as downtown Bryan.

"I do hope [the City Council] would consider other options for the location of the visitor center," he said.

The Council also officially announced a project to build a new golf course in Bryan. The course, being built in partnership with course designer GolfCorp of America and developer C.F. Jordan Residential, is projected to open in 2001.

The city was also presented with a plaque for being selected as a finalist in the All-America City competition held last month in Philadelphia.

Mayor Lonnie Stabler said he hoped the city would continue to earn national recognition.

"It (the competition) was a lot of fun, a great experience, and I know someday, we'll be doing it again," he said.